

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 183927
ORIGIN NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER CITES U.S.-TUNISIAN PARTNERSHIP

REF: TUNIS 5077

1. NEA/AFN RECEIVED JULY 19 OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT FROM WHITE HOUSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVIEW WITH WEST GERMAN TV WHICH WAS TAPED JULY 11 IN WASHINGTON. TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER REQUESTED REFTEL CONTAINED DUBIOUS REFERENCE TO RHODESIA IN FIRST SENTENCE OF SECOND PARA OF PRESIDENT'S REPLY. OTHER POSSIBLE TYPOS IN TRANSCRIPT PROMPTED A REQUEST THAT PERTINENT SEGMENT OF TV TAPE BE REPLAYED IN ORDER TO ACCURATELY RETRANScribe PERTINENT QUESTION AND ANSWERS. FROM TAPE, WE BELIEVE REFERENCE PICKED UP BY TUNISIAN PRESS WAS TO INDONESIA VICE EITHER
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PAGE 02 STATE 183927

RHODESIA OR TUNISIA. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPTION MADE BY NEA/AFN FROM HEARING REPLAY TV TAPE:

QUOTE: QUESTION: THERE IS SOME EUROPEAN CRITICISM OF WHAT IS CALLED THE IMPREDICTABILITY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THAT?

THE PRESIDENT: WELL, I THINK ANY ADMINISTRATION MUST CHANGE WITH CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THE WORLD IS A RAPIDLY

CHANGING PLACE. WE HAVE TRIED TO HAVE A POLICY THAT'S CLEAR. A BASIC PRINCIPLE IS TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCES THAT EXIST BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE EUROPEAN NATIONS,

FOR INSTANCE. WE ALSO TRY TO EXPAND THE AREA OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE NEWLY EMERGING NATIONS OF THE WORLD, THE ONES THAT IN THE PAST HAVE NOT BEEN VERY STRONG OR EFFECTIVE OR ACTIVE BUT ARE PRESENTLY INCREASING THEIR INFLUENCE.

I WOULD SAY THAT IN AFRICA, NIGERIA WOULD BE AN EXAMPLE OF THAT, INDONESIA WOULD BE ANOTHER EXAMPLE, BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, INDIA, OF COURSE. WE ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE HAVE A NEW INTEREST IN AFRICA, TRYING TO PRESERVE PEACE THERE IN NAMIBIA, RHODESIA, IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

WE ARE TRYING TO LOWER THE LEVEL OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS SALES, REDUCE THE LEVEL OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS. WE HAVE A NONPROLIFERATION POLICY. WE ARE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE ECONOMIC INTERRELATIONSHIPS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND BETWEEN US AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.
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PAGE 03 STATE 183927

SO I THINK ALL OF THESE MATTERS THAT WE HAVE ADDRESSED ARE INDIVIDUALLY DIFFERENT FROM ONE ANOTHER, BUT COLLECTIVELY, THEY COMPRISE THE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. IT IS VERY CLEAR IN MY OWN MIND WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE. WE SPELL IT OUT FOR THOSE WHO WILL LISTEN; AND WITH CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, OF COURSE, IN THE FUTURE. OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, OF COURSE, OUR COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO CHANGE ITS OWN POLICY. BUT WE ARE A LEADING NATION ON EARTH.

I THINK OUR POLICIES DIRECTLY AFFECT MANY OTHER PEOPLE. AND THOSE MANY DIVERSE PEOPLES LOOK UPON OUR COUNTRY WITH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. BUT THERE IS NOTHING SIMPLE OR EASY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL OR MILITARY AFFAIRS. BUT I THINK WE HAVE A VERY STABLE, VERY CLEAR FOREIGN POLICY THAT CHANGES IN AN EVOLUTIONARY WAY, NOT A REVOLUTIONARY WAY. UNQUOTE.

2. IT APPEARS THAT OVER ZEALOUS TUNISIAN JOURNALISTS MISHEARD INDONESIA AS TUNISIA AND THAT ORIGINAL STENOGRAPHER MISHEARD INDONESIA AS RHODESIA. HOWEVER, NO DOUBT PRESIDENT CLEARLY REPEAT CLEARLY SAID INDONESIA

NOT REPEAT NOT TUNISIA.

FYI - TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HEDDA HAS REQUESTED SAME INFO AS
REFTEL. ABOVE TRANSCRIPT OF PERTINENT QUESTION AND
ANSWER WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO HIM. VANCE

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